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## RUMORS OF A PLOT DENIED BY CAIRO

Beirut Reports Linked to U.S.  
'Psychological Warfare'

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CAIRO, Sept. 21 — Rumors abroad about a Soviet-directed conspiracy to overthrow President Gamel Abdel Nasser and replace him with former Premier Ali Sabry, a pro-Moscow left-winger, were denied in Cairo today as psychological warfare by United States intelligence.

The rumors originated mainly in Beirut, the Lebanese center of Middle East intrigue.

The denial was published on the front page of Al Ahram, Egypt's most authoritative newspaper, under the large headline "The Facts." The article was signed "Military Correspondent."

It condemned Western newspapers and certain shady newspapers in the Arab area for having published speculations based on three events of the last week: the political troubles of Mr. Sabry, changes in the army and navy commands and the dismissals of about 30 journalists, including Mahmoud Amin el Alem, managing director of Al Akhbar.

### Events Out of Context

"One of the most prominent characteristics of intelligently directed psychological warfare is that it does not resort to outright invention but exploits actual events by taking them out of their context to link them with other unrelated events," Al Ahram declared.

The rumors were given an urgent character by a disclosure that President Nasser was ill with influenza and, at doctors' orders, had canceled all appointments.

The focus of speculation was on the disappearance of Mr. Sabry in recent weeks from activities of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's sole political organization. Mr. Sabry, a former secretary general of the Socialist Union, had continued as a member of the Higher Executive Committee and chairman of the Organizational Committee.

His absence from meetings, Al Ahram said, had stemmed from an investigation into irregularities involving nonpayment of customs duties on goods imported on an airliner on which Mr. Sabry and his aides returned from a visit to Moscow in July.

### Sabry Loses a Post

The investigation disclosed that Mr. Sabry had been unaware of the smuggling by members of his entourage, the paper said, but he volunteered to pay the customs duties nonetheless and subsequently offered to resign from his posts in the Arab Socialist Union.

It was decided at a meeting yesterday that he should yield the chairmanship of the Organizational Committee but should remain in the eight-member Higher Executive Committee. Sharawy Mohammed Gomaa, Minister of the Interior, was named to head the Organizational Committee.

The outcome of the affair is that Mr. Sabry remains in political life, but with reduced influence and with many of his supporters removed from important positions.

Reports reaching here from Moscow during Mr. Sabry's trip there during the summer, which was never explained, indicated that Soviet officials had generally given him a rather cool reception.

Al Ahram scorned speculation that the appointment of new army and navy commanders last week had been related to political intrigues. "The exigencies of war," not politics, dictated the changes, Al Ahram declared.

As for demotions and replacements in the Cairo press, Al Ahram continued without referring directly to Al Akhbar, these were motivated not by politics but by inefficiencies that had caused a decline in the paper's circulation and earnings.

It was generally known in Cairo, however, that the Journalists affected were left-wingers sympathetic to the views of Mr. Sabry.

Al Ahram did not mention a rumor, also from Beirut, that President Nasser had advised Moscow to cancel the return to Cairo of the Soviet Ambassador, Sergei A. Vinogradov, who has been on vacation in the Soviet Union.

Yesterday, however, a spokesman dismissed this rumor as "rubbish" and said Cairo in the future would decline to comment on rumors from Beirut, especially rumors printed by the Beirut paper Al Jarida, which was called a tool of the Central Intelligence Agency.